

Message Text

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SUBJ: "NAMIBIA DAY" AT UN

COMMEMORATIVE SESSION HELD AT UN AUGUST 24, CHAIRED BY DIAZ CASANUEVA (CHILE) AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SECRETARIAT (BEN AISSA), SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID (MARTINENKO), COMMITTEE OF 24 (SALIM), SWAPO (GURIDA), OAU (DIARRA), SECRETARIAT GENERAL (TANG) AND PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL (MISOFF HOWISON) AT DAIS. FOLLOWING STATEMENT RELEASED:

STATEMENT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF NAMIBIA DAY
BY THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE COMMITTEE OF 24, THE COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION AND GUESTS, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA DEMONSTRATED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. IT HONOURED THE COURAGEOUS MEN AND WOMEN WHO
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HAVE FALLEN IN BATTLE, BEEN TORTURED, INCARCERATED OR

BRUTALIZED FOR FREEDOM OF NAMIBIA. IT EXPRESSES THE SOLIDARITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH THE RIGHTNESS OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA LED UNDER THE DEDICATED BANNER OF SWAPO.

THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA DECIDED TO COMMEMORATE AUGUST 26 AS NAMIBIA DAY, IN RECOGNITION OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE WHICH IS BEING PLAYED BY THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. NAMIBIA DAY WILL BE OBSERVED AS AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR AS LONG AS WILL BE NECESSARY, AS A REMINDER OF THE CRITICAL TIME IN AUGUST 1966 WHEN THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA WERE FORCED TO BEGIN THEIR RESISTANCE AGAINST THE AGGRESSION OF THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION.

ON 26 AUGUST, SEVEN YEARS AGO, COURAGEOUS FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF NAMIBIA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SWAPO, BEGAN THEIR LEGITIMATE ARMED STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN EQUALITY, SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THEIR COUNTRY. THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA THEN AND NOW WAS THE ILLEGAL OCCUPIER OF THEIR COUNTRY, THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA - THE MOST AGGRESSIVE, INHUMAN AND UNSCRUPULOUSLY OPPRESSIVE IMPERIALIST REGIME EVER KNOWN. THE YEARNING OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR STRUGGLE HAVE BEEN PROTRACTED, BY THE ACTS OF AGGRESSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME. YET THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA HAVE NEVER BEEN DAUNTED. THEY HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIRS WAS A LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE FOR RIGHTS AND JUSTICE AND THE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY ARE CERTAIN TO REALIZE THEIR JUST ASPIRATIONS BECAUSE PEOPLE OF GOODWILL ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL COME TO RECOGNIZE THE INHUMAN OPPRESSION TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED AND SUPPORT THEIR RIGHTFUL STRUGGLE.

THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, THE ORGAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY TO ADMINISTER THE AFFAIRS OF NAMIBIA UNTIL INDEPENDENCE RECALLED ON THAT OCCASION THAT THE UNITED NATIONS FOR MANY YEARS HAS TRIED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS TO PERSUADE THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA TO DESIST FROM ITS INCREASINGLY INHUMAN OPPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. AFTER ALL THOSE EFFORTS HAD

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PROVED FUTILE THE UNITED NATIONS TERMINATED THE MANDATE OF SOUTH AFRICA OVER NAMIBIA, BROUGHT THE COUNTRY UNDER THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ESTABLISHED THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA TO ADMINISTER ITS AFFAIRS UNTIL INDEPENDENCE. IN SPITE OF ITS MANY FRUSTRATIONS WITH THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED NATIONS BUTTRESSED BY THE ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, RENEWED ITS EFFORTS TO INDUCE THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME TO

HONOUR THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, AND TO CEASE ITS ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE MOST RECENT OF THOSE EFFORTS, THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SOUTH AFRICA, HAVE PROVED EQUALLY FUTILE AND THE REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE ITS STRANGLEHOLD ON NAMIBIA.

THE COMMEMORATIVE SESSION ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BECAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME HAS REFUSED CONTINUOUSLY TO WITHDRAW PEACEFULLY FROM NAMIBIA, AND TO DESIST FROM THE OPPRESSION TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN SUBJUGATING THE PEOPLE FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, LED BY SWAPO, HAVE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO INTENSIFY THEIR ARMED STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THAT SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION TO STRUGGLE AND TO RESIST OPPRESSION WHICH NOW PREVAILS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA HAS BEEN EXEMPLIFIED BY STRIKES, BOYCOTTS AND INTENSIFIED POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED AT THE RISK OF THE RUTHLESS OPPRESSION OF WHICH A POWERFUL AND UNSCRUPULOUS POLICE STATE IS CAPABLE.

THE SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SESSION ASSURED THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, LED BY SWAPO, OF THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE AGAINST AGGRESSION FROM THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND IN DEFENCE OF THEIR IMPRESCRIPTIBLE RIGHT TO FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN DIGNITY IN A UNITED NAMIBIA.

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